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**1991/11/06**

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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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MEMORANDUM

November 6, 1991

TO: EAP - Mr. Solomon

FROM: EAP/CM - Robert Perito

SUBJECT: Your meeting with Sidney Jones, Executive Director, Asia Watch, Thursday, November 7, 9:30 a.m.

Sidney Jones asked to see you to discuss human rights issues in the context of the Secretary's visit. As her letter (at Tab 1) indicates, Asia Watch wants the Secretary to press hard on a wide variety of human rights fronts, and make public relations gestures such as inviting dissidents to the Embassy and speaking at Beijing University. While we cannot satisfy Asia Watch on this count, I suggest that you stress to her that human rights will be at the top of the Secretary's agenda in Beijing. The public attention directed at other topics does not mean that human rights will not be a very important focus of the visit.

Asia Watch issued a press statement Monday revealing the existence of the list of 800+ political and religious prisoners which A/S Schifter gave the Chinese in June. The press release (at Tab 2) claims the lack of a Chinese response on the list means our "much-touted" human rights dialogue has broken down.

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[Redacted] We will continue to press the Chinese on the list and on individual cases when appropriate.

Ms. Jones is bringing along two other heavy-weights of the human rights field: Robert Bernstein and Aryeh Neier, Chair and Executive Director, respectively, of Human Rights Watch.

Attachments: Tab 1 - Asia Watch letter to you  
Tab 2 - Asia Watch press release

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United States Department of State  
Office of FOIA, Privacy, & Classification Review  
Review Authority: ANTHONY AINSWORTH, THOMAS  
Date: 12/16/94  
Case ID: 9001915

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